Table of Contents

1. The Assigment for Pyrriah's Best Assassin
2. The Strange Icewing
3. The Rainwing disguised as an Icewing
4. The Alternitive
5. The dragon with a Death Wish
6. The stupid plan
7. A idiotic plan to action
8. Traitor
9. The Judgement of the Queen behind the Screen
10. The Skywing Dragonet
11. The return of the Skywing dragonet
12. A Rescue

The Assigment for Pyrriah's Best Assassin

[image]

Deathbringer tossed his scroll to a small rock pile, feeling cold and frustrated.

The scroll landed with a soft and muffled *thump* against the frozen ground beneath his talons. The assassin shruged and shook his wings. Trying to get warm against as another cold breeze hit him. He had been to the border of the Ice kingdom a few times before to do his regular assassinations but never *this* far or for this long for that matter.

He was unbelievably cold and hungry which didn't help his mission. He tried to remmeber the last time he had eaten as he paced back and forth. Hmm probably that boar, the day before, in the Rainforest. But it was still freezing. He hadn't been in the border of the Ice kingdom long but he started to doubt it was the best idea.

The Nightwing was within eyesight of Blaze's fortress, hopping the dragonets of destiny would decide to meet the third Sandwing princess and he could complete his mission then. But maybe they were already frozen to death and it was a waste of time to be there. Or maybe they were already in an Icewing dungeon and dead that would also save him some time.

After having his assignment for a few weeks, the Nightwings were getting quite impatient and frustraded and unbelievably *grumpy*. Which wasn't fair if you asked him. It wasn't really his fault that five dragonets were so hard to track down, no one had been able to predict where they where going, and much less kill them.

He thought of the scroll the one he had tossed aside, with his targets on them. Deathbringer was still mildly surprised when the Sandwing messenger has given him the scroll with two of the dragonet's names on them. Ofcourse he had asked questions, like

Are you sure this is what they want? and, Do you know where they're going next? Why do you need the dragonets dead? What about the prophecy? Do they need to be dead to keep the war as long as possible? But wasn't the plan to join the war now? But as usual none of the questions were answered.

From Morrowseer's mostly unhelpful reports, the dragonets of destiny were first captured in the Sky kingdom, and then headed for the kingdom of Sea. Which they also escaped from, it seemed to Deathbringer that they caused chaos everywhere they went. Which was more intresting then the dragons he killed on normal basis. Deathbringer's guess was that they were now heading towards the border of the Icewing kingdom, to meet Blaze.

Deathbringer's wings shivered violently against the cold once more.

Screw it

Usually lighting up a fire would be dangerous. Usually lighting up a fire would put everything in danger and what not. Usually he wouldn't need to light up a fire because he could see in the dark. But it was early dawn anyways. And there was no dragon anywhere for miles. He sniffed the air, there wasn't any scent of a dragon as far as he could tell. But he looked around once more anyways, scanning any cloud or rock pile where a dragon could hide just to be sure.

But there wasn't anybody hiding. No Icewings hiding in the clouds and waiting to ambush him, no Sandwing spotting him from Blaze's fortress. No one reasonable would be out in this cold because they wanted to.

Really, the only dragons that would be pleased to be here for some grumpy Icewings, which he didn't spot. But if there were he could easily take them. No matter if this was thier element and if they were bigger than him or whatever the reason may be.

With another shiver, the assassin quickly started the fire. He layed down, making sure his wings shielded most of the cold and shifted closer to the burning fire for warmth. But out of nowhere and just a few seconds later, there was a *thump* of talons landing right behind

him.

" Hey! Who are you and what are you doing in our territory?"

The Strange Icewing

[image]

Startled, Deathbringer wirly jumped up, hiding the scroll with one of his wings.

She thankfully didn't notice and he studdied the dragon that nearly made him jump out of his scales, whithout obviously staring that is. She seemed to be an Icewing, with emerald green eyes strangely. Her back was a bit of a sky blue, while her underbelly turned into a white that nearly matched the snow below them. Her claws twitched against the frozen ground as if she wanted to threathen him someway but didn't know how.

At first glance, she didn't have any scars, which also strange seemed to him. But within a matter of seconds, he spotted some claw marks and scars here and there. But nothing that looked serious or that was caused by being in an actual battle. Then again she looked young, which ment she hadn't been in battle many times if any, so maybe the scars were from battle training or maybe she was just an Icewing patroling Blaze's fortress. But if she wasn't, then where did she come from?

"Great moons where did you come from?" he asked outloud, confused as he looked up at the sky, wondering how she hid so well up there. He had looked at the sky not a second ago, how had she hid so well and sneaked up on him so quietly?

"Where do you think?" she snapped, making him look down from the sky and back at her." And I'm asking the qustions here, what are you doing in the Ice Kingdom?"

"Technically this isnt the Ice Kingdom yet" he imformed her, talking in a casual conversational sort of way, despite being confused." But didnt you know that?"

For a second he saw visible confusion but quickly hid it with hostileness then snapped at him again." You're close enough explain

yourself"

Deathbringer kept talking as of she hadnt made the remark,"It will be Ice Kingdom territory one day. If Blaze wins the war that is, she promised Queen Glacier all the land you can see from here to the southern horizon" he pointed but her eyes were on him, wathcing his every move.

He smiled at her at her in a curious way, glad for some company rather than the blowing winds.

"I suppose you know all that but its intresting isnt it? Its alot of land Blaze is willing to hand over. But its not exaclty usefull to either tribe, so what would Queen Glacier want with it? Do you think theres treasure buried under these rocks? Thats my guess. A diomond mine perhaps. Maybe you know, maybe the IceWings are wisely keeping it a secret from Blaze and her SandWings." Deathbringer gave her a smile.

Her expression changed as she narrowed her eyes at him." Answer my questions NightWing, or ill take you to Queen Glacier and you can explain yourself to her"

"That wouldnt be a good idea you dont want the rest of my tride looking for me." Deathbringer said with a rakish smile, although he doubted that, ofcoruse she really didnt need to know any of that.

"And you really dont wanna sit in a dungeon made of ice until they show up which most likley would be *after* you froze to death, So tell me what you're doing here and prehaps ill let you go. win-win" She snapped back, making him smile.

Deathbringer tilted his head at the strange Icewing, feeling fairly amused. IceWings were very..... hostile and grumpy *incredibly* grumpy but this one.. sure she was hostile but she apeared to be more curious than anything. There was something strange about this Icewing but he couldn't quite put his talon on it.

And he just couldn't help but *smile* at her.

"All right" He said after a moment of thinking, loosing his train of

thought." Im waiting for somone. Well a few someones.."

Her claws twitched on the frozen ground again."Who?"

"I cant tell you that Nightwing business Im afraid, Im on an assignment."

"I didnt know NightWings had *business* I thought you just skulled around your secret location and congratulated one another on knowing everything and doing nothing" She replied in what he guessed was a teasing and sarcastic tone.

The comment made Deathbringer laugh, earning himself a strange look from the dragon infront of him. After he collected himself he looked at him with a mockingly surprised expression.

"Nobody talks to us like that!" The assassin gave her teasing eyes as he spread his wings in a majestic way. " Where's your sense of awe? Your terror of our powers?"

"If your powers were that impressive you would do somthing to stop this war." She pointed out. "Also im the one with the, uh the freezing death breath here" She said stumbling over her words.

He gave her the smallest of shrugs. "Maybe we will help stop the war some day, Mabe we havent picked a side- just like the dragonets of the prophecy." Deathbringer tilted his head at her curiously, wondering if maybe the Icewings alread had them in thier talons and they really were dead already.

But her face turned boerd " That old thing, I dont believe in prophiecies. Sorry I know its a NightWing specialty but seriously. If you can actually see the future why be all cryptic and vauge about it? Why not give us a prophecy like 'Oh by the way Blaze is gonna win the war, so give her the crown and dont even bother fighting for it,' Skip all the death and blood shed and leave a bunch of poor dragonets out of it"

Deathbringer couldn't help but laugh again, which earned himself another strange and amused look from her.

"You feel sorry for the dragonets, thats intresting, I've seen a lot of

that around Pyrriah acrually." He admited, remmbering the times he overheard dragons. "Everyone expects so much of them but they also think its a heavy burden for five young dragons, I wonder if the dragonets would be surprised by all the sympathy for them." Curiously he asked, " You havent seen any sign of them here have you? Rumor has it they were heading for the Ice Kingdom next."

"Really? Why?"

"To meet Blaze I soppose. So.... are they here? In queen Glacier's dungeon already prehaps?" He looked at her with a clever smile.

"Nope, no sign of them none at all" She responded quickly

Too quickly.

"Right. Well they couldnt have gotten here that fast anyway, its a long way from the kingdom of the Sea" Trying not to sound skeptical. He had a feeling this Icewing knew more than she told him, then again he wouldn't go spilling his tribe secrets to a dragon he had met only minutes ago even if he was charming and handsome.

"How did you know they were there? Oh I forgot NightWngs are all-knowing all- seeing and all-brillant right?" She didnt hide her skeptical expression, but overall it looked teasing and sarcastic once more.

Deathbringer smirked at her. "Dont forget all-wonderfull and all-handsome"

She snorted at him."How would anyone know when you stay hidden away like turtles? Seriously, come hang out with dragons in the real world some time."

"Is that an invitation? I probably have a day or two before the-before my work can begin, I wouldnt mind seeing an IceWing tavren if *you* were there"

"So let me get this straight." She said, sounding more amused than she had the whole conversation, as if she was holding back a laugh. "Your telling me nothing about why your here but you expect me to

bring you into our Kingdom and and buy you a drink. NightWings really do think highly of themselves dont they?"

"What if I bought *you* that drink?"

"Oh then im sure Queen Glacier would understand, no problem she loves strange dragons in her territory its her favorite thing." She said with the sarcastic tone he heard her use sevral times before.

"Alright, never mind." He said with a small shrug and a chuckle "But maybe you could come back and see me sometime, I'll be here a few more days at least probaly and its pretty boring just sitting here." he admited.

"Waiting for our myserious somones, which your not gonna tell me any more about" she said.

"Sorry, wish I could I bet my job would impress you"

"Im not easily impressed" she said and he chuckled again, after a moment of silence she said " well good luck with your assigment I suppose." She took a step back and speard her wings ready to leap into flight.

"Whats your name?" he asked hurriedly as he reached out one talon towards her.

"Sorry cant tell you that IceWing bussiness" she looked at him mockingly and he gave her a smile once more.

"Who knew sarcasm in this place grew so cold?" He grinned at her again and tryed one last time " Will you tell me your name if I told you mine?"

"Nope. Frankly im not that intrested" She turned her back to him and spread her wings.

"I'll tell you anyway, if you'll see me again! Will you?"

"Maybe Im pretty busy." she said as she lifted into the sky.

"My name is Deathbringer!" He shouted through the wind, and with

that she dissapeared into the clouded and cold sky.

The Rainwing disguised as an Icewing

[image]

" Never tell your name to other dragons. Never let them know you're an assassin. And most importantly never ever talk to your targets. You got that Deathbringer? Thats the biggest mistake you can make as an assassin. " His mother poked him in the chest none to gently.

Deathbringer was nearly knocked over by Quickstrike's gester.

" Why?" He had asked tilting his head at her in a both puzzled and curious way, one that he wore to often due to the fact of most of the dragonet's questions never being answered.

"Because it puts you in jeopardy." Her face seemed to softened for a moment at those words. But Quickstrike quickly hardened it again. " And everything else. Now let's get back to your training."

Deathbringer remmebered that lecture. Its not like it was one that was only said once. It was one that his mother had scolded him about so many times before. It was always that one lecture that she always pressed.

So why did he tell this strange Icewing his name?

Well if anything goes wrong I can always just kill her. Deathbringer thought to himself. He then chuckled, glad to be able to amuse himself.

Out the corner of his eye, he saw movement. He turned his head quickly before realizing it was just the scroll with his targets on them, the one he had quickly hidden from the mystery Icewing.

He picked up the scroll of his targets and looked through it, taking his mind off the Icewing and wondering where the dragonets were. Deathbringer was within sight of Blaze's fortress once more, but no

one had as much as poked thier snout out. The only dragons that had come in were two Icewings, though he was sure one of them was the one from eariler. The cool air was blowing across his snout as he glanced away from the fortress and back at his scroll.

His targets still puzzled him though. All the information he had on them were sketches and thier names, as always. a Seawing and a Rainwing. *Tsunami and Glory* he thought learning the names as he faced Blaze's fortress once more.

Wait.

The Nightwing looked back at the scroll. He flicked his tail as he added two and two together as he compared the sketch in his talons and the Icewing from that morning. No wonder the Icewing from eariler had seemed so strange. She wasn't an Icewing at all, she was a Rainwing.

The Rainwing he was sopposed to kill.

Before he could follow the train of thought, the door of the fortress swung opened and Blaze, along with two Icewings came out of her fortress. He saw them lingering behind Blaze but when she flew into the sky the two Ice dragons quickly followed her. He waited for a moment, expecting more Icewings or atleast one other Sandwing but no one else followed it was just Blaze with two Icewings.

Idiot.

But he wanted to study them more closely. For all he knew one of them could be Glory in her Icewing disgiuse which he thought was clever. He quickly tucked his scroll in his black pouch along with his disks. He spread his wings and followed them curiously and quietly. He flew above them, and made his wingbeats soft, though with the wind it would be hard to hear him anyways.

This time he studied the two dragons trailing off Blaze, who was talking even though none of the dragons seemed to listen. He studies them both out of curiousity and to tune out the Sandwing.

No spiked tail, and none of the actual spikes on thier necks he thought.

No these weren't Icewings, neither of them were, they could only be Rainwings. He tilted his head at them in a curious way. He regonized one to be the Icewing from that morning from her colored scales.

Suddenly she dipped her wings and the other two dragons followed her landing on a large perch and he spotted other dragonets. A MudWing, SeaWing, a strange colored Sandwing, and a NightWing. The assassin perched himself on a ledge for a closer look at his tribemate. Quickstrike had always pressed him to learn the names of his fellow Nightwings as well as the guards roating schedule and when its thier turn to hunt.

But he didn't regonize the Nightwing dragonet at all. Even if Deathbringer wasn't on the island all the time he still regonized faces well, and this Nightwing didn't look as unhealthy as the rest of his tribe. However decided to perched himself on a small ledge, well out of sight few minutes after, where he could hear the dragons below him.

"Oh wow it is so so so exitcting to meet you, where's the skywing?" he heard Blaze ask in a puzzled way.

"Glory is our fifth dragonet" one voice said kindly.

"Oh, but shes a RainWing and the prophecy called for a SkyWing doesnt it?" Blaze asked as if she wasnt entirly sure herself.

"What prophecy? Whats a dragonet of destiny?" a diffrent male voice said, who also seemed puzzled.

"Are you serious? Do yu have *any* idea of whats going on here?" he heard Glory snapped

"Its far too complicated to explain" another said in a matter of fact tone.

Someone answered in a kind voice " theres a war going on and a prophecy says five dragonets will stop it and thats us."

"Oh, Neat."

"Yes far too complicated" a new female voice said.

"Its a little more specific than that, it says two of the SandWing sisters will die- hopefully not me! And it says that five dragonets, a MudWing, a Seawing, a NightWing, a SandWing and a SkyWing." Blaze pointed out.

"We've got a RainWing insted and we're fine with that" another snapped none to kindly.

Deathbringer froze when he heard wingbeats behind him and he made sure to melt into the shadows and stayed still. Ignoring his screaming muscles. But he turned his head to the frantic wingbeats hoping not to give himself away.

SandWings.

He counted about five of the Sand dragons. Four of them flying as if thier life depended on it, spreading out in all sorts of diffrent directions. One of the Sandwings, the largest one it seemed, was hovering and looking at the terrain under him. Deathbringer could tell he was barking orders at the Sandwings but the Nightwing couldn't catch what he was saying over the howling wind.

I bet they're searching for Blaze, before Queen Glacier finds out shes gone and punishes them.

Blaze.

Blaze is out here unprotected .

The Alternitive

[image]

The idea struck Deathbringer like a boulder.

Maybe this Rainwing didn't have to die, if he was being honest, he quite liked her. She couldn't mess up whatever big plans the Nightwings had that they wouldn't tell him. If he killed Blaze he could easily get out of the trouble of not killing Glory.

On the other talon, the scroll had specifically said "And no messing around with your orders this time". Thinking about it, Deathbringer would probably get in trouble anyways, even if he killed Blaze. But he quite liked her.

An image of Quickstrike suddenly flashed in his mind. Bringing back memories he didn't want to bring back at all. He shook his wings, nope he wasn't going to go down that road. He would kill Blaze, not get in trouble, and the hilarious sarcastic Rainwing would live.

Something told him that his tribe would still find a way to be grumpy at him though. But really, when he killed Blaze the Nightwings should easily be thankful sense he did somthing no one had been able to do for about eighteen years. He looked at the dragons below him, too far for him to get her from up there. He'd have to get down there.

Deathbringer shook his wings leaped down towards them. Instead of falling, he spread his wings for balance he gracefully and on a rock pile besides Glory and spread his wings wide with an amused expression at seeing her again.

"Oh hello. Is he in the prophecy? Hes cute, cuter than this one." Blaze waved a talon to the unfimilar Nightwing who gave her a wonded expression.

Deathbringer ignored the remark, "Why hello everyone, isnt this a

concidence? I was just talking about you all this morning." He tilted his head at Glory who now had he scales to purple " Mystery dragon! Hmm, theres somthing diffent about you. Did you get your claws trimed?" he said amusingly.

Glory bared her teeth at him, displaying her fangs. "Very funny."

"You could have told me you were one of the dragonets, I'd ask for your autograph. I see now your a RainWing so... Glory right?" Deathbringer said to her.

"Right. The one you were sent to kill. Somehow I think that would have started us off on the wrong talon" Glory said keeping her glare on him.

"I'm not *necessairly* here to kill you" Deathbringer protested "And even if I were... it seems like a *much* better opportunity to kill." Deathbringer turned his snout to Blaze, "her." He reaveled the pair of silvery disks and quickly threw the two of them at Blaze.

The SeaWing got in the way. One of the disks sliced right through the edge of her wing and she colapsed cluching her wing, the other disk however landed on Blaze's neck and she shriked and stumbled back as if he had done much worse. Deathbringer resisted the urge to roll his eyes at the Sandwing princess.

Then the MudWing was there he clapped his talons over Blaze's wound and yelling something at the other unfamiliar NightWing, but he didn't move he simply stood there, looking terrified. Glory then threw the blanket at the Mudwing who wrapped it around Blaze's neck. Deathbringer quickly landed on Blaze's back and tossed the mud dragon aside from the neck throwing him with ease.

Deathbringer then grabbed two more silver disks in his talons, looking down on the Sandwing who could barely struggled. Out the corner of his eye he saw movement, before he could turn Glory rammed into him. Throwing him off Blaze, their wings tangled as they rolled around on the ice cold ground for a while until Deathbringer expertly pinned her down, keeping his back talons on her wings.

"Killing Blaze was your assigment?" Glory asked.

"No but I like to work outside the box" he admitted as he grinned at her "and I figured if I kill her it'll get me out of the trouble I'm in for not killing you"

"You can try and kill me but I doubt it'll be as easy as you think" She then ripped open the pouch around Deathbringer's neck and took one of the disk. Realizing her next move, he flinched away but he wasn't quick enough. Glory quickly pressed the disk to Deathbringer's neck with lightning speed.

"You missed the biggest artery on Blaze's neck," She pointed out."and if I remember my dragon anatomy correctly its right here" Glory applied a little more pressure making Deathbringer flinch, he carfefully lifted his talons in an innocnent way and off her wings as he stepped back.

She stood up not moving the disk from his neck and glanced over his shoulder. Deathbringer gave her an ammused expression he again smiled at her, a thing he still couldn't seem to resist.

"I did mention the part about how I dont actaually want to kill you right? Im pretty sure I snuck that in."

The dragon with a Death Wish

[image]

"Oh alright Ill just trust you then shall I?"

That would simplify things

"If you let me kill her" Deathbringer explained. "I can let you all go, that should give you a fair start before they send somone else after you especially sience no one knows where you'll go next."

"All of us?" Glory asked "You're here to kill all of us?"

"No, just a couple of you" Deathbringer said glancing at the disk she held at his neck.

"Well that makes me feel better" She said sarcastically, Deathbringer felt quite pleased at the fact that he was able to get her sarcastic side out even now, when she was holding a wepond at his neck. "Stop looking so pleased with yourself" She then proceded to poke him in the neck and he tryed and greatly failed to look somewhat serious for once.

"Which couple of us?" The SandWing dragonet interjected.

"Who's they? Who sent you" The deep blue SeaWing demanded.

"The NightWings. Thats it isnt it?" The other Nightwing said looking in Glory and Deathbringer's direction. "Because of what happened in the Kingdom of Sea, because we didnt choose Blister."

"The NightWings wanted us to choose Blister? Why would they care" Glory said.

"I dont know, thats all Morrowseer told me. That I had to pick Blister and I should convince you all to it" He said

Blaze's head finally perked up from her dramtic pose "Thats so mean! Why should the NightWings get to choose? They've never

even met me! Im awsome!"

"Oh *thats* why you were acting so wierd around Blister" the MudWing said.

Taking advantage of Glory being distracted, Deathbringer grabed her front talons attempting to seize the silvery disk. But Glory hit him in the head with one of her wings and kicked his underbelly with one of her back talons. Making him bleed for the first time in a while. He could taste blood in his mouth.

"Ow! Stop!" Deathbringer told her. Seriously did this dragon *have* a death wish? "Its like you *want* me to kill you!" he said outloud

Glory opened her mouth to say somthing but then they both froze as they heard wingbeats in the distance and simultaneously looked at the sky. It wasn't hard to see who the approaching dragons were. Icewings. Deathbringer regonized the Icewing Queen from a distance and she was right in the front of the wing of dragons.

"Queen Glacier, I knew she would save me" Blaze said with a relived sigh.

"Let me go *right now"* Glory said to him. Deathbringer got off of her raising his talons in an attempt to look harmless and smiled at her.

"Time to go they'll be here in two minutes" Tsunami ordered, Deathbringer looked up towards the sky, less than two minutes by the looks of it.

"Oh no wait you should meet Glacier you'll like her" Blaze said spreading her wings at the approching ice dragons.

"We cant leave Blaze alone here with him," The MudWing said ignoring the Sandwing and pointing a claw at Deathbringer.

"Thats true" Glory said to him with a nod and then turned sharply towards Deathbringer " You have ten seconds to take off, or we'll leave you for the IceWings to deal with."

"Shouldn't we do that anyways?" Blaze injerected "I mean he did try to kill me. Queen Glacier will be so mad. This one time a SkyWing

flew all the way here and nearly got me while I was getting some sun and Glacier literally ripped off his wings before she killed him. It was really gross but also kinda sweet you know? like she really cares about me."

Deathbringer wrinkled his nose in a somwhat disgusted matter. Having his wings ripped off was not the way he wanted to go down. He'd *very* much like to keep his wings on his body.

The SandWing had a matching sick expression "Guess what I dont want to see, one dragon ripping the wings off another dragon. Not ever, thanks."

"All right im convinced, but you really should have let me kill her" Deathbringer said flickering his tail at Blaze then backed away spreading his wings, and turned to Glory "So when can I see you again?" he said with a cheeky grin.

She scowled at him. "Get out of here"

The Nightwing headed straight to the tunnel as soon as he knew he was well out of sight. The tunnel that head from the Kingdom of Sand to the Rainforest as fast as his wings could carry him. An idea was already forming in his mind, and if he wanted it to work he would have to get though the tunnel faster than Glory and her friends. Well he guessed thats how she and the other dragonets got there.

Deathbringer didn't glance back as he beat his wings.

The stupid plan

[image]

The sky was nearly dark by the time he got to the tunnel.

He dipped his wings and dove down to the semi circle of cacti. He gave one last looked behind him he couldn't spot anyone following him, so he started to dig. After a few minutes, he had a small hole dug and he squezzed though and once he was in, and piled sand behind him.He certainly didn't want anyone spotting the tunnel and he needed to get to the Nightwing island.

He basically ran down the tunnel, even though he wans't in the kingdom of sand anymore, the tunnel to it still had sand in it and it got stuck in between his scales. He reached the end of the tunnel and poked his head out and looked around with his night vision. There wasn't anyone around the jungle, and no talon steps either so no one had been there recently. He headed up to the tunnel that lead to the volcanic island.

By the time he was just halfway into the tunnel, he could smell the smoke- filled air. It didn't matter he didn't have to be there for long. The Nightwing headed towards the Rainwing prisions, where he found two guards that looked half asleep which he couldn't blame them for. No one knew where thier island was and even if they did, there were guards posted at the tunnel.

"I need you to send a message to anyone that goes out to the Rainforest. The dragonets of destiny are in the Rainforest." Deathringer said to the two Nightwings, who stood upright immediately. "So, tell them to stay out the Rainforest. No hunting in there or grabbing Rainwings until I give the all clear."

There seemed to be visible confusion betwen the two Nightwings as they exchanged a glance but one of them broke into a fit of violent coughing. But the guard next to him spoke.

"We'll be sure to send the message along." She said.

...

Deathbringer woke up to the sound of two dragons whispering. Well you couldn't even call it whispering, maybe... quite arguing? At least the two dragons weren't talking at the top of thier lungs. But they wouldn't exactly make good assassins. He stretched his wings only for them to hit along the sides of the tunnel with a soft *thump*.

The Nightwing had fallen asleep inside the tunnel (which was filled with sand, and it kept getting stuck inbetween his talons no matter how much he tried to get it out.) After catching a boar to eat in the Rainforest, it had all been in hopes of seeing the Rainwing again. He had been looking for an... alternitive. He certainly didn't want to kill her but he certainly didn't want to die either. His only chance had been to kill Blaze but that was out the window.

With his recent attempt, Deathbringer was sure that they would be guarding the Sandwing princess even better, there was no chance of killing her. Burn was even bigger of a challange, and by challange he ment impossible in any way. He could cetainly outsmart her but from what he had heard, she was brutal. Not exactly his type of target only to get a chance at not getting in trouble. And ofcourse killing Blister would only get him in more trouble. in even more trouble than not killing Glory.

A loud and angry hiss inturrupted his thoughts.

Deathbringer quitely walked closer to the edge of the tunnel making sure to make his talonsteps light. Over all the sounds of the loud and noisy Rainforest he could pick up the sound of the familiar sound of a Nightwing breathing.

Living in the volcano, many Nightwings had breathing problems due to the ash in the air. Deathbringer however, never developed one due to leaving the island to be an assassin at such a young age. He also noticed that his mother never developed one either, the reason being that she spent more time in the continent than most of thier tribemates but she wasn't always away most of the time she was training him right on the Nightwing island.

Deathbringer felt a stab of grief at the memory but he didn't let it seep any further.

As a Nightwing, Deathbringer was able to see in the dark better than all the other tribes so he risked a look outside. He could definitely see a Nightwing not to far from the tunnel to the Nightwing island. He was standing still, looking at his surroundings. Deathringer looked around again, this time he spotted two dragons staring down at the Nightwing, even though he couldn't see thier faces he had a pretty good idea of who they were.

He looked back at the Nightwing who was beginning to take a few steps into the forest and further from the tunnel. He didn't even seem to notice he was being watched, despite the loud whispering. Deathbringer knew that it would be bad if he got caught by Glory and Tsunami and if he didn't get caught he would kill them. But the assassin couldn't hiss to get his attention so he needed some other way to warn him off.

Really there was only one option right now.

He stepped out the tunnel, knowing full well they would spot him the second he did. But he also wanted to warn off the other Nightwing, he started whistling the dragonets song which he thought was quite appropriate if you asked him. There was more whispering above him, but then he also heard the NightWing crashing through the Rainforest and what he suspected was back to the tunnel to the Night Kingdom.

He smirked with satisfaction at how nicely it had worked. But the moment didn't last long as suddenly someone leaped onto his back, digging her claws into his scales. Deathbringer yelped in pain and she nearly making him stumble to the ground. But Deathbringer stood his ground though and stumbled sideways into a tree, she yelped with pain. Once she was off him he stood on the opisate of her, close to the tree she jumped from.

His attacker lashed her tail and slightly glowed, so a Seawing and he had a pretty good idea of who it was. Before he could attack again, another dragon landed on his back, resulting in the first attacking again. After alot of wresting with the two dragons, he

gave up. Letting them pin him down, he figured that the Nightwing was already at the island and hopefully following the orders Deathbringer gave this time.

"What kind of assassin stalks his prey and *whistles* at the same time?" Glory asked from ontop of his chest.

"We should kill him right now" Tsumain, pinning him down from his shoulders,

"You scared out monster away" Glory said, ignoring the Seawing and poking his snout with a sharp claw. "So now we're extra mad at you"

"Yeah that plus trying to kill us" Tsunami said.

"What monster?" Deathbringer said innocnetly.

"Did you follow us through the tunnel or did you already know it was there?" She asked, looking even more suspecious than before.

Both He thought but decided not to mention that. "How would *I* know it was there?" he said instead

"Thats what I'd like to know"

"Lets take him back to the village and interogate him" Tsunami said suddenly.

"I dont think its safe I mean for the RainWings, Or the others, we should keep him as far away from everyone as possible" Glory said in a sensible voice.

"Or.. We go back to plan A. Kill him right now" Tsunami snapped at her.

"Tsunami I dont think you want to kill him anymore than I do" Glory said to her.

The Seawing opened and closed her mouth a few times then looked at him the Glory and finally spoke "Alright, you're right I dont want to. But I was hoping he'd think I want to so good job backing me up

on that one."

"Sorry I couldnt read your mind like a stupid Nightwing" Glory told her, then looked back at him. "Speaking of which are you a mind reading Nightwing? What am I thinking of right now?"

"That im much too charming, clever, and good looking to kill?" Deathbringer guessed with a cheeky grin.

Glory expression didn't seem to change as she flared her ruff at him and poked him in the snout again, "Wrong. I'm thinking you're starting to be an awful lot of trouble. Have you decicded to kill me after all?"

Deathbringer thought about that for a moment. He darted his eyes away from her. But Deathbringer ended up looking at Glory and then caught himself.

He didn't really want to kill her but what else could he do? He had already spent time thinking for an alternitive but he couldn't think of any dragon to kill in order to get himself out of the trouble of not killing Glory. Maybe if they told him whatever they were planning, then he could do his job much better but that wasn't going to happen anytime soon.

"Not sure I like the length of the pause" Glory told him, breaking his thoughts and he looked back at her.

"Ive been wondering if theres an alternitive. But its usually not my call."

"Who's is it? The Nightwing queen?" Tsunami demanded

"I cant say" Deathbringer said slowly.

"I don't understand why the Nightwings would want me dead" Glory said from intop of him, sounding genuinely curious and confused.

"That has become ever more mystifying to me as well" Deathbringer admitted.

"So you're mystified but you'll probally still do it" Glory said.

"I wouldnt say *probably* more like *maybe*." Deathbringer admitted, he didnt know he was still torn. He certainly didn't want to be dumped into a pit of lava anytime soon, but on the other talon he didn't really want to kill her.

"I wouldnt call that *reassuring* I would call that the *opposite* of reassuring." She said back at him.

Deathbringer gave her a cheeky grin.

"So what do we do with him? We cant let him go, and we cant take him back to the Rainwing village." Tsunami said to her

"We could tie him up, leave him in the rainforest, and hope the monster eats him." Glory then looked at Deathbringer for what seemed for a reation so he kept grinning at her. "Did we mention that monster? its been abduction or possibly eating Rainwings aroun here, I bet it'll be pretty exited to see you all tied up."

"Oh no. Please dont leave me where a monster could get me." Deathbringer said sarcastically.

Glory then oppened her mouth and then closed it and then wore a thoughtful expression before poking his snout again. "Was that sarcasam? Tsunami did that sound wierdly sarcastic to you?"

"Like he doesnt belive in monsters," She said, then quickly added, "Which im not sure I do either."

"Lets drag him away from the tunnel and tie him up, then you go tell the others and we can take turns watching him until he decides to tell us who wants us dead and why."

"And which of us, he said he was sent to kill a few of us not just you."Tsunami said to her.

"Also you know how to avoid it"

"You'll have to wait im not allowed to tell you anything" Deathbringer warned.

But they both ignored him as Glory stood on his chest to get vines

in order to tie him. He decided to let them do this, after all if Glory was watching him then she couldnt go off and get herself captured all he needed to do was make sure she stayed in his sight. After the discussed for a while Glory and Tsunami decided to come back with the Mudwing to guard him so the Seawing left and Deathbringer was alone with Glory.

"It's so noisy here" He said, breaking the silence

"Its not like that where you come from?" Glory asked him.

"Its alot quieter in the Ice kingdom and the Kingdom of Sand" he pointed out. The nosiest it got in the Ice kingdom was the cold winds that seemed to mess up his sense of smell or the distant flap of Icewings flying around the frozen landscape. The Kingdom of sand was also quite for the most part.

Glory stared out into the trees but he twisted his neck to see her face. His closest guess was that she was going to try to find the Nightwing that captured Rainwings, which she thought was a monster it seems, and she'd get captured by it and killed by the time one of the Nightwings regonized who she was. But he wasn't sure and he was curious to find out, maybe if he acted like he knew...

"Dont do it." he said to her.

"You better not be reading my mind" She snapped at him as she turned back to him,

"I dont have to you have an 'Im about to be stupid' written all over your face"

"Its not stupid" She snapped. "Its quite clever and it might be the only way to catch the monster"

"Maybe you should leave the monster alone go back to the prophecy fullfilling business." he said and Glory opened and closed her mouth a few times and wrinkled her nose.

"Im not even in the stupid prophecy" She said finally.

"I know, but I bet you'd still be remarkably good at making it come

true." he said truthfully.

"That doesnt make any sence, and the Rainwings are my tribe they need my help I need to do this on my own."

"Wait" he said. What she was planning to do was going to ger her captured no doubt, and when they figured out who she was it was going to get her killed. "Why? You have freinds let them help you"

She instantly shook her head. "They cant help me with this, the monster or whatever is out there, isnt gonna approach a group of dragonets. It attacks Rainwings who are in the forest alone."

"So you're-" he started

"Im gonna use myself as bait."

A idiotic plan to action

[image]

Deathbringer thrashed his head around, avoiding the vines.

He had tryed to convince Glory to not go through with her plan all night. But his attempts to derail her plan didnt even make her consider how much of a deathtrap she was walking into. If anything it made her wanna do it *mo*re. Which was frustrating to say the least, he was trying to save her scales but instead of listening to him she was determined on getting herself killed.

"Stay still!" Glory told him still trying to get the vines around his snout but she had no way of keeping him still. Well no better way, therte were still alot of vines around the rest of him.

"No! Listen to me! Your gonna get yourself killed!" Deathbringer said thrashing his head even more furiouslly to avoid the vines."By the *moons*!"

"Im not stupid enough to get myself killed!" She snapped at him. "And why should I trust you?" She said.

That was a good question, Deathbringer thought about that for a moment. There were many reasons to atleast *listen* to him, he hadn't killed her even though he knew he would pay for that. He also didnt escape when he had the chance-

In one swist move Glory used the vines to snap his snout closed, she then continued to tie them until almost all of his snout was covered by vines. Deathbringer crossed his eyes to see the vines.

"MMMF" He complained through the vines, but Glory just kept tying them until he had no chance to get them off. Thats when they heard talonsteps comming thier wa. A second later the Mudwing from eailer in the Ice Kingdom was there.

"Watch him carefully ,dont let him talk" She instructed him.

"MMMMF" Deathbringer complained again through the vines, trying to stop her one last time.

"No worries I'll just sit here and be my usual intimidating self." The Mudwing threw his shoulders back and scowled at Deathbringer or atleast a poor attempt at a scowl, and Deathbringer raised an eye bridge as he gave him the most skeptical expression he could muster.

"I'll send someone else soon to take the next watch" Glory assured him,

If she doesnt get killed first Deathbringer thought *Hmm I need a way to get out of here.*

And with that Glory disspaeared into the jungle.

Deathbringer thought about what to do for a moment. He could easily break through the vines and fly after her but it wouldnt work he knew that. Because Glory didnt trust him if he went into the Night Kingdom she wouldnt let him help her. If she was caught and imprisioned in the Night kingdom, he had no way of knowing. Maybe she had really been caught and they were planning to kill her right now.

Or maybe she had used her venom to defend herself, but he had no idea and no way of knowing. But even if he went to rescue her, he needed this MudWing to come with him to the Night Kingdom as far as the assassin knew, she trusted this Mudwing so that was his only chance to get her out of there. So he needed to convince him, somewhow, but he couldn't do that with vines around his snout.

"Um.. Im Clay" Deathbringer's head snapped up as he eyed the Mudwing up and down. He chuckled nervously. "Im hungry arent you? Moons above I wish there was cows.. or sheep around here." Though it was mostly to himself than anything.

It had been a while, he was honestly tired of Clay rumbling on all night. But that was the least of his problems it had been too long surely Glory would have been captured by now.. maybe dead if the Nightwings figured out who she was. He was about to risk it all to

go after her, he was gonna risk the Nightwings seeing him and him being considered a traitor.

"Its been a while hasnt it?" Clay muttered suddenly. "Im starting to get worried.." He trailed off, casting the forest a worried look.

"MMMMMMF" Deathbringer said getting his attention and it worked the Mudwing turned his head sharply to him.

"Do-do you know where shes gone to?" Clay asked him looking more skeptical than anything, and Deathbringer nodded his head vigriously. "Really?... If I let you talk you'll tell me where she is, and we'll go get her?" Deathbringer nodded again."Alright" He said after a moment, taking the vines off his snout.

Deathbringer then began to quickly explained her plan. He also told him where she was probably captured and in the Nightwing island already and how she was in danger. Throughout his explaination the Mudwing seemed to grow more and more alarmed but wheen he finished he began cutting the vines that tied him to the tree.

"Come on! Hurry!" Deathbringer said, spreading his wings as he headed to the tunnel that lead to the Nightwing island he looked back to see Clay was right behind him. With frustration he remmbered the guards standing at the tunnel. "Wait here I'll distract the guards then we'll go to the lava prisons where Glory is" Clay nodded in agreement.

He went through the tunnel and looked at the guards, Deadlyclaws and Wisdom were on guard duty. Good, they were one of the more lazy dragons of the tribe and listened whenever it was to thier convenience. So they shouldn't be too hard to distract, he thought for a moment before stepping out the tunnel.

"Is it your turn to hunt this week?" He tryed.

"Um yeah" Wisdom said she looked momentaily startled, while Deadlyclaws wrinkled his nose at him as if he wasn't sure why the question was being asked. "Its Deadlyclaws's turn too" Wisdom offered, nudging his wing with her own.

"You can go hunt now." Deathbringer said, knowing full well they would. "I'll go tell the next set of guards to guard the tunnel for you."

Wisdom was already nodding, spreading her wings. Deadlyclaws however, looked much more suspecious but Wisdom was already bolting to the sky. Deadlyclaws lingered for a moment until Wisdom called out something from the sky and a second later he was up there too. Deathbringer made sure they were gone before he flicked his tail and looked back to the tunnel.

"Alright they're gone come on." He said, Clay who instantly ran down the tunnel. Deathbringer spread his wings but the Mudwing's nose seemed to twitch, he coughed a few times before spreading his wings.

He lead them down to the Rainwing prisions which was surely where Glory was and if she wasn't then.. well he didn't want to think about that. When they got close to the lava prisons he instantly saw Glory, he sighed in relief as she saw her.

Her scales were all black, like a Nightwing. the illusion was complete with her ruff kept close to her neck so it was hard to see. Deathbringer wasn't sure if it was also to match her surroundings. The bind most Rainwings had around thier mouth and fangs were gone but she still had the bindings on her wings, which ment she wasn't fully free yet.

Behind her, eyeing a Nightwing on the ground nervously was a dragonet. She also had her scales to black, and her fuff tucked in as if she too was tying to camoflauge herself. But he could see specks of a bright green here and there, her talons and wings also twiched nervously.

"You're gonna hurt alot more unless you carry me to the lava, or cut these ropes off me" Glory snapped at the NightWing on the ground. He had his wings over his head and was trembeling uncontrolably as if the volcano was errupting right then and there. He figured Glory had used her venom on them if the Nightwing guards seemed to terrifyed.

"Actually, I have a better offer" Glory whirled around and saw Deathbinger, "Hello Glory" He said giving her a cheeky grin as his eyes met hers.

"Dont give me that smug face" She snapped.

"This isnt my smug face its my herioic face " He protested landing close to her."and how funny is this? First im your prisoner now your mine." He said never taking of his smug/ heroric face whichever worked with Deathbringer. But on the other talon heroic face certainly worked better scence he *was* heroicly rescuring Glory.

Glory hissed at him, "Prehaps you havent heard what I do to dragons who try to keep me prisoner"

"All right stop it you two" Clay said from behind him.

"Clay!" She said. "What are you doing here?"

"Rescuing you, aren't you pleased?" Clay asked.

"Im right in the middle of rescuing myself" Glory said sarcastically. "Maybe some other time."

"Dont listen to her! We difinitely need rescuing! Please rescue us!" The small dragonet came up behind Glory.

"How did you even get here I mean how did you even know to look for me here?" Glory asked and Clay nodded at Deathbringer. Glory probally had no idea how much Deathbringer wanted her to ask that just so he could pull an even more smug expression.

Before Glory could even snap at Deathbringer for his heroic face Clay was already talking "He talked me into it, when you didnt come back he told me he knew where'd you gone and that he'd help me find you if I freed him."

Glory eyed Deathbringer suspicously "Sounds like a trick."

"Lets escape first and ask the skeptical expressions later" the tiny Rainwing dragonet behind Glory said.

"Sensible dragonet" Deathbringer said to her, then looked at Glory he tryed to give her a self -satisfied and teasing look and he hopped it didn't come out as worried to his stomach as he felt. "You can expressed you undying gratitude for me later"

"Go ahead and hold your breath" Glory suggested.

"Up you go" Clay said spreading his wings and gesturing for Glory to climb his back while the dragonet held on to his tail. Deathbringer wished he could carry her instead he was bigger it would be alot faster but the Nightwings couldnt find out he was helping her and its not like she would trust him so he bit his tounge as he watched them fly away.

Deathbringer wanted to fly too, he wanted to get off the Nightwing island and go with her but he knew he couldnt, not to save his own scales but if he wanted to protect Glory in the future. He watched as Nightwing guards tried to catch them, but they didnt succeed. Glory was safe. And they would probably make it through the guards.

Probably.

Traitor

[image]

Deathbringer heard claws scrape against rock.

He sharply turned around, only to see the Nightwing guard. His wings weren't over his head anymore, they were at his sides. But he still wasn't standing, his teeth was going something inbetween baring his teeth and gritting them in pain. He shot an unfriendly look at Deathbringer, as he noticed he had a venom scar on his back.

He probably wasn't so happy that he had just helped the dragon that wounded him escape.

Deathbringer knew staying on the island would be no use, they would eventually figure out that he was the one that helped Glory escape. He needed to get off the island, quickly before Deadlyclaws and Wisdom figured out it was all a trick. Before the his tribe put the pieces together. Should he head back to the rainforest? It did seem most reasonable. And safe, definitely more safe.

He turned away from the wounded Nightwing and spread his wings, if anyone asked why he was going to the Rainforest he could tell them that he was going after them to capture them again. Or that he was going after them to kill them. They would belive either one Deathbringer knew that. He also knew that they wouldn't suspect him.

Then... well then he would make it up as he went from there. First he had to get to the Rainforest there was too much of a chance that his tribe would figure out he freed Glory. The tunnel was within sight. The assassin tucked his wings in, diving down to the tunnel when , quite suddenly, a dragon crashed into him in midair.

"What do you think your doing!?" Deathbringer roared at him once he balanced himself. A Nightwing older and only a bit bigger than him was also trying to catch his balance in the air casting an

unfriendly look at him. He had armor which sudjusted that he was a guard.

Deathbringer didn't add anything else and decided to let it go. Picking a fight with his tribemate wasn't going to get him off the island faster. Especially if it was a guard, they tended to have an even worse temper and they would ask too many questions. He needed to leave *now*.

But his fellow tribemate had other plans. He reached for Deathbringer again, but the assassin swiftly moved out the way. He could also hear wingbeats behind him. Not this dragons' no they were someone elses. He whirled around two more guards were comming towards him, and they didn't look like they just wanted to say hello.

Fourth moons and fireballs.

Deathbringer stayed hovered in the air, if he flew away they would know something was wrong maybe he could reason with them. But then on the other talon that was proven unsucsessful but he certainly couldn't fly away. Maybe he could see what they wanted, and if he couldn't reason with them or convince them that he was going to the Rainforest to kill Glory then he would have to use an....alternitive option.

Suddenly he heard a growl behind him, he turned to see the first guard reach for him. He was able to surprise him and knock the assassin to the ground very close, too close if you asked him, to a pool of lava.

Deathbringer fully extended his wing to try to shove the Nightwing off of him. But his shoulder along with his wing was twisted in such an akward position that, it wasn't possible. Instead, the guard ontop of him pushed his wing down, and he could feel the tip of his wing brush the lava.

The assassin roared with pain, his back legs raking the underbelly of the Nightwing ontop of him. The guard hissed in pain and pinned his head to the ground. He pinned it down so hard that Deathbringer was in pain for a moment and he stopped struggling

for a second, trying to regain his streangth. He heard a thump of two pairs of talons landing.

"Are you sure about what Wisdom and Deadlyclaws said?"

"I'm certain. Just help me pin him down" Said the guard above him.

A slight pause.

There were more sounds of talons scrapping against rock as if the dragons were advancing towards him while Deathbringer struggled. Someone seized his tail while another seemed to pin his wings down, no maybe that was the same dragon. Deathbringer even couldn't tell how many dragons had him due to his face pressed against the ground so harshly.

"Are you sure this is the traitor? It just seems-"

"What in the three moons are you talking about!? Im no traitor!" Deathbringer said inturrupted hopping for them to believe him, or atleast enough for them to let him up. But It didn't work, the pressure on his wings and tail was still there, and the guard pinning his head down didn't seem to be considering letting him go anytime soon.

He couldn't move, there was too much weight ontop of him, it seemed as if a mountain itself was ontop of him. The heat of the ground below him was overwhelming with heat and he couldn't hold on much longer.

'We'll let the queen decide that."

Something hit Deathbringer in the side of the head.

It was too much this time, he fell into darkness.

The Judgement of the Queen behind the Screen

[image]

Deathbringer wasn't too suprised to wake up inside of a cell.

He looked around he could see no light around him it was dark the only light came from a few poorly lit torches. His eyes hurt as he used his Night vision but he was determined to look at his surroudings. He regonized himself to be in the dungeons that were more below ground, judging by how hot it was around him.

As he continued, he spotted another dragon. A few cages down was a Rainwing he regonized as Queen Splendor, or was it just Splendor now? Surely with her gone for so long the Rainwings must have not even cared she was gone. And if they did, they had other Rainwings to be Queen. So just Splendor he figured.

He stood up despite the protest of his aching muscles. Something stopped him. He peered down at his talons only to see shackles at his front and back talons preventing him from moving much. He bumped his head when he tried to stand to his full height, and his wings bumped against the bars of his cage. But he wasn't complaining, stuck in a small cage was better than in a pit of lava, dead. So he didn't mind his tiny cage much.

His ears twitched as he heard talking and talon steps. Moments later there were four guards at his cage unlocking the shackles and his cage, with expressions that suggested they were doing it against his will.

"Dont try anything" The one unlocking his shackles growled at him.

He nodded and let the guards drag him into a tunnel. Maybe there was still a way out of it all, running wouldn't do him much good. Maybe there was another way to see Glory again. Hopefully. He just needed to find out a clever way out of it.

All too soon, they were in a tunnel, one he knew that lead to what was called the council chamber, where there would be a cave full of Nightwings discussing. Or more accurately just argue and growl alot until the Queen shut them all up and decided something. Most of the time, Deathbringer wasn't involved in these "council meetings" he was just given orders without any explainations.

There was a guard at the mouth of the tunnel, she signaled for Deathbringer and the other four guards to stay there. Personally, Deathbringer thought there wasn't nearly enough space in the tunnel. The guards around him seemed to all be keeping thier wings and talons close, thier glare on him. Deathbringer didn't have the shakles or any chains but he too was keeping his limbs close.

"Its your fault they found out about us!" He heard a familiar voice say although he couldnt quite place his talon on who it was, "You're the one who brought her here even though Deathbringer warned us the dragonets were in the Rainforest and that we should stay away until they were gone."

"Deathbringer" A new voice said he could identify this one, Vengence. "Oh yeah how is your pet Greatness? I've heard a very intresting story about him"

Without a warning of any kind, Deathbringer was then dragged by the four guards in the cave full of Nightwings. Most of which were spread around the room but some were hanging upside down from the rock coloums on the roof.

Vengence siezed his ear making him wince and virtually threw him and he crashed into another dragon Deathbringer neatly used his wings to balance himself. After he stood his ground, he turned to see who he had just crashed into. It was Starflight one of Glory's freinds the neverous Nightwing he had seen back in the border of the Ice Kingdom,

"Ah you're here too" he said to him in a freindly way, he desperately wanted to ask if Glory was alright but he knew he couldnt dare with his fellow tribemates watching. Starflight had always seemed nervous and peterified in place but here he managed to look even more nervous which Deathbringer understood perfectly.

"This dragon" Vengence bellowed to all the listening Nightiwing. Pointing an accusing claw at Deathbringer, "This pet assassin of princess Greatness was actually consipring with the enemy *he* is the one that brought the Mudwing here, *he* helped them both escape."

"Hold on, Conspiring with the enemy? Do you have ant proof?" Deathbringer demanded. He hopped neatly over starflight so the dragonet was carefully between him and Vengence, in case he tried anything. Vengence already hated him as it was for the death of Slaughter but he certainly didn't need to add any reasons for him to attack him, such as- making it easy for him.

Vengence hissed, "Yeah I have witnesses one of the guards she attacked on the way out saw you help them, and the guards you distracted from the tunnel so the Mudwing could come through-" He looked ironically smug. "They can tell us all about that."

There was a long pause as Deathbringer searched his brain though anything he could use in his defense.

"Deathbringer" Greatness piped up, "That kind of betrayal... The punishment is death" she twisted the dimond necklace around her neck in a nervous way.

He bowed deeply towards the queen and finnaly spoke trying to not show the fear in his voice as he spoke," I swear ive only ever done what is best for my tribe"

"Oh yeah? Then why are all the dragonets still alive then?" Vengence snapped.

Deathbringer quickly glanced under his wing to look at Starflight and hide the look of alarm. What if she wasnt *alive*? *What if after everything I risked shes dead*? He gave Starlfight a quistioning look and he nodded Deathbringer sighed a sigh of relief. Deahtbringer held his head up, "My mission is not complete its true, I need to return to the Rainforest and-"

"And betray us some more" Vengence spat " I bet you do."

Every Nightwing's eyes were on Deathbringer so he raised his voice

and flared his wings to get thier attention, trying not to think about.." I assure you I'm a loyal Nightwing, Perhaps I think its worth disscussing if whether we really need to kill these dragonets, but-"

"You see! Hes-" Vengence started.

"Vengence!" Greatness shouted "The queen has spoken, you've endangered the whole tribe. You disobeyed orderes, you brought a viper disguised as a simple gardener snake." She spread her wings

"Wait!" Vengence pleaded "What he did was worse! I just caught a Rainwing as always! How could I know- She looked no diffrent from the others!"

"And in addition" Greatness flickered her tail and guards who had Deathbringer just a second before came bursting in "You're irritating the queen."

"No!" Vengence shouted.

Deathbringer knew what was gonna happen every dragon in the room knew, he had seen it so many times growing up on the volcanic island, guards siezed Vengence just as he spread his wings to fly away. But he wasnt fast enough. Other Nightwings were already taking steps back and away from Vengence.

The guards threw him into the lake of lava, and Deathbringer shot up to avoid the lava splashing around them. Starflight however wasnt fast enough, and he yelped in pain. Vengance shot up spraying even more lava around them. This time Deathbringer yanked Starflight up into the air with him, the hovered in the air and watched as Vengeance got boiled alive.

"DONT DO THIS SAVE ME" Vengence bellowed, and guards pushed him down using thier spears and soon enough the thrashing stopped.

Deathbringer felt sick in his stomach as relization hit him, that could be him, he could be the one pleading for his life thrashing around. He could be the one being boiled alive.

"Thank you, your majesty" he said at last bowing, he tried not to glance at the shape of dead Vengence.

Greatness looked away, "Dont Deathbringer we're not done with you." She adressed the guards this time. "Take him to the dungeon, we'll invistigate the charges and then her majesty will decide what to do"

Deathbringer landed and he allowed the guards to escort him away, glancing only once at Starflight and the dragonet wrinkled his nose at him in what looked like a confused and apologetic look. He turned back to the tunnel, a shiver went up his spine as one terrifying thought entered him once more.

What if I end up like Vengeance?

The Skywing Dragonet

[image]

Apart from Splendor's wimpering, the dungeon was quite.

Once in a while, guards would bring food down but it wasn't often. So because it had been so quiet for so long, Deathbringer was quite curious when he heard talon steps heading down towards him. There seemed to be atleast four diffrent dragons desending to the dungeon. One of them however, sounded like they fought back. Loud wing flaps and occasional yelps and growls of pain echoed through the stone walls.

"Hey!Watch it! LET US GO!"

The dragons finally appeared down at the dungeon. Four Nightwings escprted a Skywing and a Mudwing down. Which sent questions flying though the assassin's head. The only dragons other than Nightwings were Rainwings here. And if there were any other types of dragons in the island, well they would be dead soon, secrecy was his tribe's specialty.

But even if these dragonets would soon be dead, why were they here? Even Splendor was watching them curiosuly as if she had never seen a Mudwing and a Skywing before. But she too seemed a little confused by thier presence. She had stopped wimpering ,thank the moons, and instead was eyeing them even more curiously than Deathbringer himself.

The Mudwing was a burly like all other Mudwings, but he seemed a more darker brown than most. He seemed to try a stubborn sitting posistion in protest, his claws raking against the stone floor. But Nightwing guards were bigger than him.

They pushed him forward with irratated expressions, as if they had dealt with this the whole way. Once in a while, one of the guards would poke him with thier spears and that would get him moving, but the mud dragon's face looked mostly hungry somehow.

The Skywing dragonet however, was taking a much more hostile approach. His scales along his body were more of a dark, almost blood red. His horns and back was black, and his underbelly was a more sand like color. His huge wings flared, nearly wacking one of the Nightwing guards in the side of the head.

His talons seemed to want to claw any scale he could see and he bit anyone who got too close, leaving sevral scratches and bite marks on the Nightwings trying to get him into a cell. But the Skywing dragonet was also wounded.

Deathbringer was fairly amused at the fight they put up but it ended all to soon. Eventually the guards pushed the two protesting dragonets into seperate cells looking terribly pleased and irritated at the same time. The Skywing dragonet was only a cell away from Deathbringer, and the Mudwing was right next to the Sky dragon. The guards then exitited, not even giving another look at the prisioners.

The Skywing snorted a small puff of smoke, looking terribly irritated at his deafeat.

"Who's that?" The Skywing demaded after a few second of silence. Deathbringer had turned away from the Skywing but he turned back to him, seeing who he was refering to. He nodded at Splendor.

"Its Queen Speldor, or rather just Splendor now."

"Hmm" The Skywing said after a long moment, his flared his wings only for them to hit against the bars of the cage. He gave his wings a ruefull espression before curling his tail around his talons, his face still twisted in anger. The Mudwing beside him sighed sadly and his wings dropped, he curled into a ball for what Deathbringer could guess was sleep.

"What"s your name?" Deathbringer asked curiously after a few minutes, trying to get closer to the question of *Why are you here?*

The Skywing turned sharply towards him and eyed him up and down. "Whats yours?" He spat instead of answering. His tail lashing against the wall of the cave.

"Deathbringer"

"What kind of name is that?" The Skywing spat again.

"An assassin's name. "Deathbringer said after a slight pause. He had always thought his name was self explanatory but apperantly not. He asked again, "whats yours Skywing?"

The Skywing eyed him for a few seconds, not answering."What does it take to become an assassin?" The Sky dragon finally asked, sounding less hostile than he had the whole coversation and irgoring Deathringer's question entirely.

"It takes lots of diffrent things to become an assassin." Deathbringer pointed out.

"Well... whats the best way to kll a dragon fast?"

"Thats probably the easiest things of the job."

"I just want to know the best way to kill a dragon" The sky dragon shot back.

"Why are you worrying about that?" The Mudwing asked suddenly. Deathbringer and the Skywing both, quite startled, turned towards him. "Why are you worring about that when THERES NOTHING TO EAT HERE."

"Yes there is." The Skywing shot back, he pointed a claw at him and flared his huge wings. "*You* were the one that ate all out dead things."

"Yeah but that was FOREVER AGO."

"Try a few hours." The red dragon shot back.

The Mudwing made a woeful noise and covered the side of his face with his dark brown wings. He curled up into a tight ball once more, his tail drapping over his nose and whithin seconds the dungeon was filled with loud snoring as the mud dragon's stomach rose and fell in steady breathing.

Deathbringer could sense night approching. Not because of they sky, no the sky wasn't even visible from the dungeon. Or anywhere else on the volcanic island for that matter. After being in the mainland after so much time, Deathbringer had learned to sense roughly what time it was after sleeping under the stars for so long. Even when he went to the mainland for the first time, with his mother, he figured it out quickly dispite being so young.

The assassin felt a stab of guilt and sadness at the memory of his mother. But it also made him think of somebody else. Someone that was alive because of that day. Somebody that was sarcastic and facinating.

Deathbringer turned away from the Skywing scowling at the Mud dragon, his back facing them. He placed his head on his front talons and closed his eyes, not that sleep would come quickly. He let his long tail drape over the edge of his cell. He hadn't realized how exhausted he was until his wings dropped, probably due to the fact he hadn't eaten in a while.

The Skywing next to him however, huffed in annoyance as if he thought the two dragons were perfectly boring for sleeping. Deathbringer could swear he was scowling despite his back to him and his eyes being closed.

He heard a flap of wings, but they weren't distant so he could only guess the Skywing was flapping or flaring his wings or prehaps just trying to wake the other dragons up. After a while though it stopped and he could only guess he had given up, and after a few huffs and claws scrapping against rock he heard snoring.

Then Deathbringer too, was soon asleep.

...

The guards had taken the Skywing and Mudwing during the night.

Or what Deathbringer could guess was closer to very early dawn. He wasn't sure but the dragons next to him were woken up with spears at thier sides. There were only three guards this time, all of which looked as if they woud rather keep the two dragons in thier

cells instead of letting them go.

"Watch it!" The Skywing was instantly standing, looking as if he was ready to claw of someone's snout right then and there. His tail lashed so furiously that he actually wacked the Mudwing in the head with his tail. The brown dragon instantly stood up, looking half asleep and he ended up stumbling on his talons.

Deathbringer bit back a laugh.

"Are we sure this is safe?" One of the guards said with a small scowl at the Skywing dragonet. He was male and slightly bigger than Deathbringer, but he could see his ribs poking out his sides.

"Not at all." Another responded, she was carring the keys in her talons and from time to time glanced at them as if he wanted to throw them in a lake and leave the dragonets to rot in the dungeons.

Despite the guard's complaing and reluctance, they hesitantly unlocked the Skywing and Mudwing's chains and shackles, muttering angry curses under thier breath. They pushed the dragonet's forward with thier spears with no particular kindness.

The Skywing flared his wings in protest however, as if he felt disprespected by the act only to earn a scowl. The the red dragon kept his mouth shut though, his nostrils flaring and smoke rising. The Mudwing however hurried down before the guards could do the same to him. He looked more tired than anything, probably due to being woken up in the middle of the night.

As they were exiting the dungeon, Deathbringer called out to them amusingly, testing for a reaction. "How about me next?"

The guard bringing up the rear, scoffed and slightly flared her wings and nothing more. But as her tail dissapeared, the assassin caught something she said as her voice slightly echoed in the dungeons.

"We both know you're not getting out of here anytime soon."

The return of the Skywing dragonet

[image]

It was a few hours after the Skywing and the Mudwing dragonet were realeased that Deathbringer heard talon steps comming down towards him.

He heard them before he saw them, he hears angry hissed and growls until they stopped and continued desending. The assassin counted atleast two dragons juding by the sounds of talons scrapping against rock. In a matter of seconds there were dragons in the dungeon, They weren't guards, infact two of them were familiar faces.

The angry Skywing was one of the dragons in the dungeon. His face still twisted in an angry scowl, but the Nightwing figured it was always like that. His large wings were burhsing the dungeon walls as he walked. Beside him with a much less hostile look was Starflight his green eyes studying his surroundings in a worried and anxious way. His talons and wings twitched as if he wanted to fly and run away at the same time.

But next to him was an unfamiliar Nightwing, she looked to be around Starflight's age with purple and much more exicted eyes than the Skywing's or Starflight's. She didn't look unhealthy at all, and Deathbringer figured that she must have been in the mainland much as well.

Her wings (like any Nightwing's) were scattered with silver scales that looked brighter, like Starflight's, probably due to not living in the island. She also had silver scales by her eyes and around her wrists, unlike any the assassin had seen before. She stood right by Starflight's side, her wings lightly brushing his but the other dragonet didn't seem to notice.

The Skywing didn't even glance at Splendor, who was was asleep,

the red dragon instantly walked up to Deathbringer's cage. The assassin tilted his head to greet them. "Hello Skywing, glad to see you on the outside of the cages this time"

"What does it take to become an assassin? I want to know the best way to kill a dragon fast." The hostile dragonet blurted.

He stood up and walked towards the eager dragonet. "You mean how to kill a dragon and not care." He pointed out, remmbering thier short conversation from earlier. "You have to be doing it for a really good reason and you have to belive in that reason completely, You should also avoid talking to your targets in case you find out they're beutiful, sarcastic, and fasinating for instance." He let a small smile cross his snout.

He snorted with a small scoff."Is that what happened to you? Is that why you're here?"

The assassin shruged."Prehaps, but its not a terrible thing to question your orders if you ask me."

"What orders? Who is this?" The umfamiliar dragonet asked curiously.

The Skywing's head whirled around to her. "Can't one of your visions tell you that?" He spat rudely.

"This is Deathbringer he was sent to kill my friends, but instead let us go and saved Glory from the Nightwings." Starlflight explained, much more kindly.

"Three moons keep your voice down" Deathbringer said, he flared his wings slightly to quite them down. "I think I'm the only one down here apart from Queen Splendor- But you never know"

Starflight serched the room with an even more anxious expression until his eyes landed on Splendor, she studdied the dragon for a moment, then asked: "Thats Queen Splendor?"

"The first Rainwing captured by the tribe. Shes the one that accidently scarred Vengeance." Deathbringer explained remmbering Vengence. "The idea was once we had thier Queen they'd do

whatever we wanted, little did we know that not only did they have multilple queens but that they can go for months without noticing one is missing."

"Yikes" The unfamiliar Nightwing piped up.

"Doesnt surpise me" The red Skywing hissed, his tail lashing and his snout turning boered.

"Thats all going to change" Starflight said in a determind way.

"Because of Glory?" Deathbringer asked curiously.

"Yes" Starflight said after nearly jumping out of his scales and studying Deathbringer for a long moment.

Deathbringer untensed, if Glory was going to change it all then she was certainly all right. Maybe mad after discovering the Rainwings, but a mad and and alive Glory was certainly better than a dead one.

"Who's Glory?" The Nightwing next to Starflight asked.

"Thats... a long story." Starflight replied.

That's the understantment of the year. Deathbringer thought.

"Im going back to bed, this is pointless" The Skywing growled as he none to kindly pushed past the pair of Nightwings with another scowl.

"Wait-" Deathbringer said, trying to stop him. "Just- remmeber that you're your own dragon. You dont have to do what your told- you can atleast ask questions."

The Skywing whirled around furiosuly and looked amused for the first time."So I can end up like you? Behind bars soon to be dumped into a pit of lava?That does sound like great advice."

Deathbringer shrugged and smiled. "It could be worse."

"Like if you killed one of my friends, that would have been worse" Starflight suggusted. The Skywing however snorted in either

amusment or in a scoffing way. A moment later his tail dissapeared.

"So Glory's all right? She made it back?" Deathbringer asked Starflight.

Starflight (To the his great relief) nodded, "But shes pretty mad about the imprisoned Rainwings."

Deathbringr let a small smile cross his snout once more. "Ofcoruse she is. I never thought it was a good idea for the record"

"You dont- um seem like.." The Nightwing next to Starflight trailed off.

"Like a typical assassin?" Deathbringer finished for her, "Well alot of energy went into training me, but when I was sent to the continent and.. I guess your on your own for a while you start thinking your own thoughts instead of everyone elses. Im afraid that makes me quite the dissapoitment to the queen."

The female dragonet gradded the bars with an amazed expression, "You've met the queen?"

Deathbringer tilted his head at her, that confirmed his theory about her. She hadn't been raised on the island. Every Nightwing that did live on the island knew that the queen didn't show her face and that she spoke through her daughter.

"No, not face to face ofcourse" He said outloud. "She watches us through screens and speaks through her daughter Greatness. Its been like that as long as I've been alive anyways."

"We need to talk to her, how can we find her? I've spent all night searching the whole moons begotten fortress and I cant figure out where she might be." She said looking frustrated for the first time.

"You have?" Starflight asked.

"While you were sleeping. I told you im wide awake at night." She replied."I wanted to get started"

"Im the same way" Deathbringer addmited, "Listen its not safe to

seek out the queen she wouldnt like it"

"We dont have to invade her magical privacy or whatever, does she have a throne room? Somewhere we could talk through the wall and probaly find her?" She insisted.

Deathbringer hesitated, "This isnt a good idea I dont think she'll help you"

"I think she will. I saw it in a VISION" She said as she pressed her talons to her forhead dramaticlly.

Deathbringer couldnt help but give her an odd look, "Really?"

He knew the Nightwing powers were lost if they were even real in the first place he wasnt sure, he knew Nightwing dragonets took classes to pretend to have those powers but he knew they werent actually real. So was this dragonet lying to him or did she actually believe her own lies? She already lived on the mainland, there wasn't much reason for her to lie.

"My visions are never wrong" She informed him and then looked down at her talons in a sad way, "Although I wish they would warn me about more useful things somtimes"

"Well" Deathbringer said slowly after a moment, remmbering the layout of the fortress. "If you really want to try the throne room. Its on the far side of the fortress from here, two doors past the libary if you're comming from the council chamber. But even if she is behind that screen in the middle of the night which she wont be, she won't speak to you without Greatness there."

"She doesn't have to speak she has to listen." She insisted.

Deathbringer exchanged a look with Starflight and shrugged. "Well good luck. But hurry- it'll be dawn soon."

Starlfight looked around the room then back at Deathbringer, "How can you tell?" he asked

"I can sense it, spend a few months sleeping out in the open and you'll get the knack of it too"

"What were you doing on the continent for so long?" Starlfight asked.

"I had a list, and regular meeting to recive orders. Did you notice when one side was winning the war, one of their top generals would mysteriously die? Not that Im taking credit for anything ofcourse" Deathbringer said with a smile.

"I did notice that!" Starlfight said with a sudden burst of exictment. "At least from what I could figure out from the newest history scrolls, but if that was you," He paused for a moment, "well it seemed to happen from all three sides so I thought it had to be a concidence"

Deathbringer understood the confusion, "We chose a side only recently" He spread his wings with a ruefull pause, "Not that I was consulted in that choice"

"You dont like Blister either" Starflight said as the other Nightwing started tugging him away.

"Starflight we have to go" She said,

Deathbringer didnt really know anyone that liked Blister. It wasn't the most popular topic but Nightwings would get extra hostile when her name was even mentioned. But nobody talked about her much. The Nightwings accepted her alligence for beniftes, yes but none of them really liked her, at all.

Starflight stepped away from Deathbringer "I'll come back, soon- Ill see what I can do to help you." he said

He tipped his head towrds the exit, "Dont get in trouble, I'll be all right, good luck,"

With another almost hesitant pause, Starflight gave in to the dragonet beside him and exited the dungeon. Thier tails dissapeared and second later the sounds of talons scrapping against rock became a distant sound.

A Rescue

[image]

Deathbringer certainly didn't want to die.

Well nobody wanted to die really, well nobody expect truly misrable dragons. And the Nightwing assassin wasn't a truly misrable dragon at all. He would very much want to live. But the volcano had other plans.

Deathbringer felt the ground under him shaking, shaking so much he could barely stand without stumbling on his talons. He knew this was it, it didnt take a genius to find out that the volcano was exploding. On one talon, he was right and the volcano exploded eariler than Mastermind had guessed, but somehow he didn't feel as triamphith as he imagined.

He stood up on all fours and his claws scrambled to the lock that locked his cell in the dungeon. Deathbringer knew how to pick a lock, it wasn't his most mastered skill as he had never practiced it much or ever really needed. But his mother had taught it to him and he had done it within a few seconds and silently, as an assassin should be.

Deathbringer cursed under his breath and dug his claws into the lock again, trying to unlock it. There! If his claws could twist that.... alsmost there... Without warning, the ground under him shook violently and Deathbringer's claws slid out the lock and he fell on his snout. The Nightwing hissed as sharp pain shot through him as hot coals brushed by his tail, burning him.

There was a fearfull scream, he whirled around to Splendor who has her scales a lime green with fear. Her eyes wide and fearful as she continued screaming, which wasn't helping. She was shaking just as he was with her wings over her head. She curled her tail around her talons, avoiding the hot coals that would burn her.

The ground was shaking much too violently for him to even try to

pick the lock again. Over the sounds of Splendor's screams Deathbringer couldn't hear the approaching talons. But he did see the approaching dragons as they raced into the dungeon, having trouble even standing upright. One of them, to Deathbringer's immense surprise was Starflight who rushed to Splendor's cage with the keys in his claws.

But next to him was Glory.

Her scales a lime green like Splendor's, but still looking as beautiful as ever, and as soon as she spotted the assassin's cage she raced to him. Only inches from Deathbringer. Without thinking, and for a moment forgetting the predicament they were both in, he reached out and wrapped his talons around hers. She looked into his eyes, as he looked into hers. He then gave her a look that said thank you, and something he didn't dare to put into words.

There was a click, that made both dragons look away from each other. Bringing then back to reality. With another violent shake from the volcano, Starflight rushed over to them, handing the keys to Glory. She frantically tried multilple keys, but the island shook furiously and it made for a slow process. Glory's talons were shaking as she was barely able to keep the keys in her talons.

Surely there wasn't enough time, and he wasn't about to let her risk her life for his. Not after so much he had risked for her. "You dont have to do this." He said, fixing his gaze on her and hoping she would stand down and save her own scales.

"Oh I dont? That'll save me some time, good luck with the volcano then." She replied sarcastically, she didn't look up at him and stayed concentrated on the keys in her talons. Through her sarcastic comment, she held the same determined look she had when she decided to go along with her plan despite Deathbringer's protests back in the Rainforest.

"Try this one" Starflight suddenly said, taking a quick glance at something above Deathbringer's head. With shaking talons, he took the keys from Glory and stuck one of the keys into the lock on Deathbringer's cage. It swung open but the Nightwing yanked on his chains. That would take them more time which they didnt have

much of at the moment.

As far as he knew they had seconds before the volcano fully erupted.

"Somthing is comming through the walls!" Splendor shouted her scales still the same green with wide eyes. She flapped her wings furiously. As furiously as the volcano shook, as if her wings were considering flying away and leaving them all behind but the rest of her wouldn't do so.

"You two go ahead we'll be right behind you." Glory told him still concentrating on Deathbringer's chains.

"Lets go lets go!" Splendor yelled again.

"One more minute" Starflight said.

Splendor started sobbing, "We dont have any more minutes! We're going to be exploded, and covered in lava and melted and dead!" The volcano shook violently once more and they were all stumbling on thier own talons once more.Glory stumbled forward but Deathbringer caught her in his front talons quickly, before she hit the ground, his eyes never leaving hers.

The ground shook again and she got working back to working on his chains. "Thats it!" she said as he unlocked his shackles and they all heard a click. "Come on!" she said grabbing one of his forarms and yanking him up.

The assassin nearly stumbled on his talons but he managed to stand unpright despite the shaking ground. All four dragons started running it wasnt easy with the ground shaking so much and Deathbringer nearly fell a few times, "Watch your feet" He called out to the dragons running infront of him as he spotted hot coals were now on the ground, in one swift movment Glory swept sevral aside and he saw her wince."This way!" He shouted leading them into the council chamber where he knew would be faster.

The fortress was huge but he did his best to remember all the confusing paths and halls to get them out on there he looked back

to see all three dragons were still behind him never slowing down he then saw the sky and noticed that the cloud of ash and smoke was denser.

"Try not to breath its not far from the tunnel" Glory warned as they all spread their wings and took off into the air. The heat had become unbearable due to the errupting volcano. He looked down to see Nightwings on the beach fighting each other, doing anything to get off the wreched island.

"We have to bring them to the Rainforest or else the whole Nightwing tribe could be wipped off today" Starflight called out to Glory over the sounds of angry Nigthwings.

"Serves them right." Glory snapped back with an odd look on her face. "I hope my Rainwings make it back safely."

"You go ahead to the Rainforest make sure they're all alright and prepare for whats comming" Starflight told her.

Glory hesitated then nodded."We'll have our spears and fangs and sleeping darts ready. Come on you two" She said flickering her tail at Deathbringer and Splendor and they flew after her.

He glanced at Glory when they were nearing the tunnel. The dragon who he had risked everything for. The dragon who had saved his life and risked hers while doing so. The death of his mother and memories of years ago played into his mind.

But this will never happen again. If I ever find someone else to care about, I will not let mt mission come first. I will break any order. I'll endanger my own tribe if I have to. I'll make up for this somehow, someday.

This was Deathbringer making up for it. He would protect her dragon at all times. He would watch out for her day and night, and he wouldn't ever leave her side. As long as he was alive and breathing he wouldn't let any harm would come to her.

Deathbringer would always be next to her, facing whatever she had to face with her.